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➤BOOK ❖ NOTICES.❖◀

BIBLICAL ESCHATOLOGY.*

Eschatology has been so generally relegated to the teachings of the New Testament, that a student of the Old Testament, at first sight, may deem the title of Dr. Hovey's book somewhat misleading. But the grave questions involved in the doctrine touch very vitally all revelation. Such topics as "Natural Death," "Resurrection of the Dead," "Condition of Human Souls between Death and Resurrection," "The Last Judgment," "The Final State of Believers," and "The Final State of Unbelievers" are topics which stir thought when reading Genesis as well as when reading the Apocalypse.

In a very compact form the author has given the results of years of study, stimulated by the questionings of his classes. Believing that our knowledge of final things for *definiteness* is entirely dependent upon the teachings of the Bible, he has followed the method of Christ with "a certain lawyer:" "What is written in the Law? How readest thou?" (Lk. 10:26). Quietly, with mental reserve, and with a thorough, scholarly method, he interrogates nearly all the texts generally quoted for and against the subjects in hand, and gives us his own conclusions, leaving his reader to decide for himself. The tone of candor and catholicity is exceedingly charming. We have not noticed a sentence which smacks of the *odium theologicum*—a rare power and a rarer fact.

There may be differences of opinion as to the interpretation of some texts; perhaps some of those selected from the Old Testament are rather inferential than conclusive; but there can be no question as to the reverence with which all of them are considered. We commend the book, as timely and suggestive. It is a book to be studied as well as read, or rather to be studied when read.

THE ANCIENT WORLD AND CHRISTIANITY.†

In this work the history of the religious element in man is narrated from its earliest known sources. The well-known learning of the author, his candor and liberality, his hopeful and earnest spirit, are at their best in this volume. The literary style, as also the arrangement of the material, is worthy of praise. Beginning with pre-historic man, the religious development of the east is traced in Chaldea, Egypt and Phœnicia; then follow the religious ideas of the oriental Aryans, the religions of India in the Vedas and Buddhism. The scene changes to the west, where Hellenic paganism is succeeded by the Graeco-Roman syncretism, whose decay leaves the path open for the coming of Christ in this the fullness of time. The writer's view is that these endeavors of man after God

* BIBLICAL ESCHATOLOGY. By Alvah Hovey, D. D., LL. D. Philadelphia: *American Baptist Publication Society*. Price, 90 cts.

† THE ANCIENT WORLD AND CHRISTIANITY. By E. De Pressense, D. D. New York: *A. C. Armstrong and Son*.